

**CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 8, 2018**

The Newton City Commission convened in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on January 8, 2018 at City Hall, 201 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Attending were Mayor Hague, Vice Mayor Nygaard, Commissioners Davis, Koehn and Valentine, City Manager Myers, City Attorney Towle, Director of Finance Pickman, City Engineer/DPW Loomis, Director of Community Planning & Development McElroy, Director of Communications McDaniel, Chief Metzler, Chief Murphy and City Clerk Duerksen.

Pastor Donna VotEAU with Trinity Heights Church provided the invocation. The Mayor then led in the Pledge of Allegiance and presided over the items of business.

**1. Review minutes of December 19, 2017 work session and regular meeting.**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Koehn moved and Commissioner Valentine seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The retiring Commission concluded their business and adjourned sine die.

**2. Administer Oath of the City Commission.**

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Kathy Valentine, Leroy Koehn and Glen Davis.

**3. Reorganization of Commission.**

**A. Consider the selection of Mayor for the ensuing year.**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Valentine seconded to select David Nygaard as Mayor for the ensuing year. Motion carried.

**B. Consider the selection of Vice Mayor for the ensuing year.**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Koehn moved and Commissioner Hague seconded to select Kathy Valentine as Vice Mayor for the ensuing year. Motion carried.

**C. Designation of the official newspaper for the ensuing year.**

A request for proposals for publication of legal notices in a local newspaper were received and reviewed. The Newton Kansan submitted a bid of \$3.50 per column inch for publication of the City's legal notices and Newton Now submitted a bid of \$4.25 per column inch. Staff recommended the Kansan be chosen.

**MOTION:** Vice Mayor Valentine moved and Commissioner Koehn seconded to designate the Newton Kansan as the official newspaper for the ensuing year. Motion carried.

**4. Recognition of community service and achievement:**

- A. Recognize Newton High School student Linda Moyo for being one of the 18 state qualifiers to attend the Jobs For America’s Graduates (JAG) National Student Leadership Academy, and for being named as one of three state officers for the JAG-Kansas chapter.**

Linda Moyo, Newton High School student, was recognized for being one of 18 state qualifiers to attend the Jobs For America’s Graduates National Student Leadership Academy. She is president of three different JAG chapters in Kansas.

- B. Recognize Sgt. Jason Thompson for completion of the Law Enforcement Leadership Academy (LELA) from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center and receipt of his Certified Public Manager (CPM) from KU – to be introduced by Chief Murphy.**

Sgt. Jason Thompson was recognized for completion of the Law Enforcement Leadership Academy and for receiving his Certified Public Manager from KU. Sgt. Thompson thanked the City and Commission for allowing him the opportunity to gain this certification.

- C. Recognize Newton Presbyterian Manor for their receiving a Top Performer designation by US News & World Report on their Best Nursing Homes List for 2017-18**

Newton Presbyterian Manor was recognized for receiving a Top Performer designation by US News & World Report on their Best Nursing Homes List. Executive Director Marc Kessinger noted U.S. News rates health inspection findings, nursing staffing and medical quality measures using Medicare data for this designation. Presbyterian Manor received a 5 star rating. Their mission is “to provide quality senior services guided by Christian values.”

**5. Receive a year-end housing report.**

Staff reported there are 614 platted lots throughout the City. Of those, 110 are available buildable lots because they have water, sewer and streets already available. There were 116 new residential living unit starts in 2017. Multi-family developments (Cottonwood Crossing and Prairie Fire) account for 105 of those units.

**6. Consider a Cereal Malt Beverage License for Gurty’s, as a limited retailer for 2018.**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Koehn seconded to approve the cereal malt beverage license for Gurty’s LLC for 2018. Motion carried.

**7. Planning Commission.**

**A. Receive a report from the Newton/North Newton Area Planning Commission for the final plat for Rolling Hills 6<sup>th</sup> Addition.**

At their regular meeting, the Planning Commission approved the final plat for property located in Rolling Hills 6th Addition. The property is located on the south side of East 1<sup>st</sup> Street, west of South Spencer, north of SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and east of highway I-135. The proposed use for the property is listed as hotel and restaurants, and the zoning is general business. The Planning Commission recommended the City Commission approve the final plat.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Hague seconded to accept the report of the Newton/North Newton Area Planning Commission as presented. Motion carried.

**B. Consider approval of the final plat for Rolling Hills 6<sup>th</sup> Addition.**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Valentine seconded to approve the final plat for Rolling Hills 6<sup>th</sup> Addition. Motion carried.

**8. Consider a Resolution memorializing the City Commission's final decision in the nuisance and dilapidated structure conditions at 527 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street.**

A Resolution setting forth the final decision of the governing body of the City of Newton, Kansas, on an appeal of findings and orders of the Environmental Hearing Officer on administrative property nuisance and dilapidated structure proceedings pertaining to conditions at 527 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of Newton, Kansas was considered. The property owner has 30 days in which to apply for the necessary demolition permits. If he fails to do so, City staff would be authorized to proceed to carry out the demolition of the property. The costs are then billed to the property owner and could be assessed to the property tax bill.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hague moved and Commissioner Koehn seconded this Resolution, assigned G-1183, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

**9. Consider possible disposition of City-owned property:**

Recently, the City has been approached by two residence about purchasing City-owned properties that are adjacent to their residence. The properties are small in nature and are currently maintained/mowed by City crews. Each of the properties owned by the City only adjoin the properties of the interested parties and are only of value to those owners and not sellable properties for new home sites.

**A. Property adjacent to 901 North Elm Street.**

The property owners plan to build a new single family resident on the property and will remove the barb-wire fence that currently marks the boundary between their property and the City's.

## **B. Property adjacent to 314 Glendale Ave.**

This property is approximately 5,500 square feet. The City's property contains an easement that would need to be researched and formal action taken by the Commission to vacate before the sale of this property could commence.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Davis moved and Vice Mayor Valentine seconded to have staff move forward with the disposition of the properties. Motion carried.

### **10. Receive and discuss a draft lease agreement with Harvey County which facilitates the Harvey County Free Fair.**

The lease agreement with Harvey County for the fairgrounds needs to be updated. The draft agreement is an attempt to continue the spirit of the original arrangement, while making certain adjustments responsive to certain portions that have either become moot over time, or to reflect the changing needs of the stakeholders. Some changes include additional language regarding the maintenance of the grounds, removal of the alcohol restrictions, and the right to terminate part of the contract for a tract of the land should it be needed for certain functions for public works department. Harvey County has reviewed the changes and will be adopting the lease at a future meeting.

### **11. Review the current versions of the legislative policy statements by the League of Kansas Municipalities, by REAP, and by the Harvey County Council of Governments, and consider endorsing some or all of those legislative policy statements.**

The League, REAP and Harvey County Council of Governments legislative policies for 2018 were reviewed. Adopting these legislative policies help staff when reaching out to legislators.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Koehn moved and Vice Mayor Valentine seconded to adopt the current legislative policies as presented. Motion carried.

### **12. Consider the City Manager's appointments to the Mechanical Board – Ron Henich & Lorne Reimer, terms ending 4-30-2021.**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Hague seconded to approve the City Manager appointments. Motion carried.

### **13. Citizen's Forum.**

There was no one to speak.

Staff asked the approval of a joint letter, along with the County Commission, directed to Workforce Local Area I and Workforce Local Area IV be taken up as a new business item.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hague moved and Commissioner Koehn seconded to take up the matter of approving a joint letter, along with the County Commission, directed to Workforce Local Area I and Workforce Local Area IV. Motion carried.

Federal funding for workforce training and other services utilized by businesses and industries is spread throughout several workforce districts around the State. Newton is in Local Area I, which is the largest area geographically and includes much of North Central Kansas and all of Western Kansas. Local Area IV comprises much of the Wichita metropolitan area, but stops at the Harvey County southern border.

Local Area IV contains most of the aviation, aerospace and advance manufacturing industries in Kansas, and they have job recruitment and training assets which are specifically designed to meet the needs of those industries. Much of the industry in Harvey County is either in those same sectors or serve as vendors for those sectors with very similar needs as to job skills and workforce training. For those reasons, City, County and EDC representatives have been in discussion with Local Area I and IV representatives for over two years now about the need for greater cooperation and coordination. A joint letter insisting a meeting be held with all the partners to discuss an agreement and set a timeline for it to be completed has been approved by the County Commission. The City Commission is asked to approve the same letter.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hague moved and Commissioner Davis seconded to have the mayor sign a joint letter directed to Workforce Local Area I and IV for a meeting. Motion carried.

In other business, it was noted a work session will be held before the next meeting to talk about goal setting for 2018. Staff continue to work on a preliminary response to the Occidental proposal.

**14. Adjournment.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk